

104
TREASURES
FOR THE
FAIR

AN EXHIBITION
AT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Sixty-Four Treasures

Foreword

IN HONOR of the 1964 World's Fair The New York Public Library is exhibiting sixty-four notable treasures from its various divisions and special collections. These have been selected to suggest to the many visitors coming to New York for the Fair, the breadth and diversity of the Library's holdings. Covering a span of nearly six hundred years, the manuscripts and printed books shown here illustrate the many ways in which the Library carries out its principal purpose — to serve the sciences and the humanities. They have been chosen as outstanding examples of literature, science and history, as well as of fine bookmaking, handsome binding and beautiful illustration.

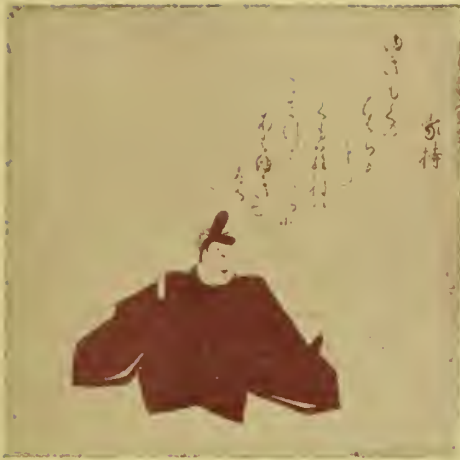
One of the world's most far-reaching discoveries is set forth in the letter Christopher Columbus wrote to a Spanish court official, Luis de Santangel, upon his return from his great adventure. "In thirty-three days I passed over to the Indies with the fleet which the most illustrious King and Queen, our Lords, gave me: where I found very many islands peopled with inhabitants beyond number." This dramatic announcement was immediately put into print for the quickest possible distribution. How many copies were issued we do not know, but the only one that has survived is in this exhibition — "Americanum" number one, and one of the Library's greatest treasures.

Columbus's announcement had an incalculable impact on men's minds and led to the opening up of a New World for exploration and settlement. Other books and documents in this exhibition have had similar impact and significance: Copernicus's *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*, the foundation book of modern astronomy, published at Nuremberg in 1543; Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, Louvain, about 1516; Cervantes's *Don Quixote*, Madrid, 1605; and the *Declaration of Independence* in Jefferson's own hand.

The invention of printing itself is symbolized by its greatest monument, the *Gutenberg Bible*. The beauty of a great masterpiece of medieval calligraphy and illumination can be studied in the *Tickhill Psalter*, written in England between 1303 and 1314. Beautiful printing and illustration are combined in the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* of 1499, from the press of the great Venetian printer Aldus Manutius. These and the other treasures assembled here epitomize the richness of the printed and manuscript resources of this Library, one of the great research centers of the country.

Visitors to the Fair will see much of the newest technology and scientific discoveries, along with reminders of the past, such as the replica of Columbus's flagship, the *Santa Maria*. Visitors to the Library will find here the great achievements of the past, along with the results of modern scholarship. Together they furnish the foundations on which the future will be built, a future which Columbus and his contemporaries can hardly have imagined.





Sanjuroku Kasen. ↑

The Thirty-Six Immortal Poets. Seroll on paper. Japan, Kamakura period, ca. 1200.

Written in the new script called *kana*, developed in the late Heian period and done with spirited brush strokes guided by a hand so entirely engrossed in beauty of form that the content is at times almost impossible to decipher. The placing of the columns of characters is so elegant that it suggests a whimsical musical commentary on the human forms below. The poets illustrated are Oshikochi no Mitsune (d. 907) and Isé (d. 939).

Spencer Collection



The Tickhill Psalter. Manuscript on vellum, written in England, ca. 1310.

This Psalter was written and at least partially illustrated and illuminated by one John Tickhill, prior of the Augustinian monastery of Worksop, near Nottingham, in central England, between the years 1303 and 1314. It is remarkable for its wealth of illustration and high standard of artistic work. During the eighteenth century, the manuscript came into the possession of the Kerr family, Earls of Ancram and Lothian. In 1932 it was sold in New York at auction, and acquired by the Library.

Spencer Collection



Mahzor. Manuscript on vellum, ← Rhineland, ca. 1380.

The Mahzor is a collection of festival prayers according to the Ashkenazic (German) rite, used in Italian Jewish communities. This fourteenth-century manuscript, written on vellum with many illuminations, is in two volumes. The illumination shown here depicts the opening of the Gates of Mercy and contains a prayer for the Day of Atonement.

Each of the two volumes contains a postscript, dated at Padua, October 10, 1848, by Samuel David Luzzatto, the Italian Hebrew literary historian, listing the liturgical poems found in the text, some of which are not extant in any other collection.

Louis M. Rabinowitz Collection, Jewish Division

Wöchentlich Andacht zu Seligkayt. Illuminated manuscript on parchment. South Germany, early 15th century.

This devotional compilation, on seventeen leaves, is a combination of handwriting and printing. The sixty-nine illustrations show scenes from Biblical history and the life of Christ, together with portraits of the Saints. The printing of these woodcuts directly on the parchment and their subsequent hand-coloring are viewed by scholars as a transitional step between the medieval manuscript and the later printed book.

Manuscript Division

Ulrich von Richenthal.

The Chronicle of the Council of Constance. Manuscript on paper, South Germany, ca. 1450–1460.

This actual account by an eye witness, Ulrich von Richenthal, was written and illustrated by an artist of the Constance school, with over two hundred pen-and-ink sketches, colored by hand. It is the second-oldest known version of the Chronicle of the Council of Constance and was copied from a manuscript now lost. The manuscript represents the style of writing and illustration, typical of the books made for popular consumption, at a time when printing from movable type was already in existence.

Spencer Collection

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A "Girdle Book" Breviary. Manuscript on paper, South Germany, dated 1454. Bound into a leather pouch.

Manuscript breviaries for the use of the clergy were not uncommon in the fifteenth century, but a breviary bound into a leather pouch to be buttoned and carried in a belt or girdle is of great rarity. Not more than thirteen such "Girdle Books" are known to have survived. This breviary was written by Brother Schaldus of the monastery of Kastl, near Eichstätt, Germany, and is dated 1454. It contains four single woodcuts of the early fifteenth century pasted onto the pages of the text for illustration.

Spencer Collection

Biblia. Mainz: Johann Gutenberg? 1455?

The so-called Gutenberg, or 42-line, Bible was the first large book, if not the first considerable piece of printing, executed in Europe from movable metal types. This copy, purchased for James Lenox at the Wilkes sale

in London in March, 1847, was the first to be brought to this country.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Claudius Ptolemy.

Geographia. Florence? Italy, ca. 1460.

Ptolemy was an eminent scientist who lived in Egypt at the beginning of the Christian era. Until the discoveries of the Columbian period, his geographical works were accepted as authoritative.

This manuscript is often referred to as the *Codex Ebernianus*, after the name of a previous owner. The Library published a special edition from this text in 1932.

Manuscript Division



Richard Aungerville, known as Richard de Bury.

Philobiblon. Cologne: Printer of Augustinus' *De fide*, 1473.

The *Philobiblon* is the earliest published treatise on the love of books. Its author, living some hundred years before the invention of printing in Europe, brought together one of the greatest collections of manuscripts in fourteenth-century England. His famous treatise became the prototype of the many books on book-collecting which have appeared since this first edition was issued in 1473.

Rare Book Division. Bequest of Gabriel Wells

Jacob ben Asher.

The Four Pillars. Pieve di Sacco, 1475.

The author of this code of Jewish law was a refugee from Germany who died in Toledo, Spain, before 1340. The printer of the book was a physician, Meshullam Cusi ben Moses Jacob, whose enthusiasm for the newly invented art is expressed in the following poem in the colophon:

Wisdom am I, and crown of all science,
Hidden am I, a mystery to all.
Without pen stroke, my imprint stands patent,
Without scribe, lo! a volume appears.

This is one of two recorded copies on vellum of the first Hebrew printed book.

Jewish Division

Dante Alighieri.

La Divina Comedia. Florence: Nicolo di Lorenzo, 1481.

Dante's principal work is here shown in the Florence edition, illustrated with copper engravings which have been attributed to Sandro Botticelli and to Baccio Baldini. Of the many illustrations planned, only nineteen were printed. Two of these were printed directly upon the pages of the first signature and seventeen were pasted into their designated spaces. The plan of illustrating the entire volume was abandoned.

Spencer Collection

Euclid.

Elementa geometriae. Venice: Erhard Ratdolt, 1482.

Euclid's contribution to mathematics was his systematic and logical expression of the geometrical knowledge extant in his day. Very little is known about his life, but so well did he organize his "Elements" that the work has been used without any important changes from about 300 B.C. to the present day. This is the first printed edition. It contains the Latin translation of Johannes Campanus (fl. ca. 1260).

Parsons Collection, Science and Technology Division

Geoffroy de La Tour-Landry.

The Book of the Knight of the Tower. Westminster: William Caxton, 1484.

"The booke whiche the knyght of the Toure made to the enseyngement and techyng of his daughters" is the title used by Caxton in the colophon of this fourteenth-century treatise on the education and conduct of women. It is one of the rarest of the books translated and published by England's first printer. This is one of four perfect copies known and the only one located outside of England.

The two chapter headings shown here read in modernized English: "How no woman

ought to wrangle or brawl with folk which be brainless"; and "How no good woman ought to answer to her husband when he is angry."

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Bible. Bohemian. Prague: Jan Kamp, 1488.

This work, known as a Prague Bible, is the earliest complete Bible in Czech. The text follows an old version revised by John Huss. Only a few copies of this edition are extant.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Triod Tzvetnaya. The Floral Triodion or Pentecostarion, ca. 1491.

A liturgical work of the Eastern Orthodox Church, this volume is believed to have been printed in Craoiv by Schweidpolt Fiol (Viol) in 1491. This is the initial date in the history of printing from Cyrillic type. Only four other copies are known.

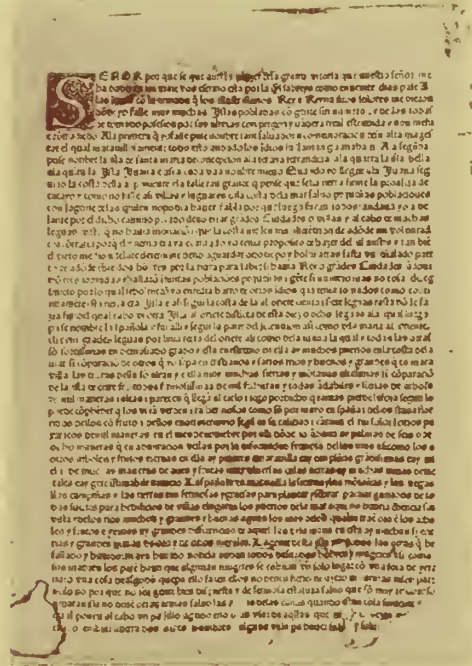
Rare Book Division

Christopher Columbus.

Letter to Luis de Santangel, 15 Feb. 1493. Barcelona: Pedro Posa, 1493.

Unknown until its discovery in Spain about 1889, this so-called "Spanish folio" edition is the first printing of Columbus's epoch-making announcement of his discovery of a New World. This is the only copy known.

Rare Book Division



Francesco de Colonna.

Hypnerotomachia Poliphili. Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1499.

The *Hypnerotomachia* by Venice's great printer, Aldus Manutius, has been called the most perfect book of the fifteenth century and a masterpiece of the classical period of Venetian book illustration. Its woodcuts have been attributed to Bellini, Montagna, Cima, and Carpaccio. This copy is printed on vellum.

Spencer Collection

Aesop's Fables. Manuscript on vellum. Northern Italy, ca. 1500.

This splendid manuscript is written in Greek and illuminated with innumerable miniatures in the style of Florentine book illumination of the late Renaissance.

Spencer Collection



Martin Waldseemüller.

Cosmographiae introductio. St. Dié: Gualtherus Lud, April 25, 1507.

The name "America" was first applied to the New World in "this small book of far-reaching consequence." Miss Margaret B. Stillwell, in her *Incunabula and Americana*, translates the famous passage:

"But now that these parts have been more extensively examined, and another fourth part has been discovered by Americus Vespuccius . . . I do not see why we should rightly refuse to name it America . . . after its discoverer Americus, a man of sagacious mind, since both Europe and Asia took their names from women."

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Diego Columbus.

Letter to King Ferdinand of Spain, July 19, 1511, signed "el Almirante."

Diego was the older of the two sons of Christopher Columbus and inherited the noble title "Admiral of the Indies" upon the death of his father in 1506. In this letter Diego proposes another exploratory expedition toward the "new world"; it is the earliest of his letters owned by the Library.

Manuscript Division

Sir Thomas More.

Libellus vere aureus . . . de optimo reip. statu, deque noua Insula Utopiae . . . nunc primum editus. [Louvain, 1516?]

More's account of the ideal commonwealth, *Utopia*, was first written in Latin and published in Louvain, probably in 1516, in the edition shown here, which was overseen by the great scholar Erasmus. It gave the world a new word and ideas that are still revolutionary.

Berg Collection

La Conquista del Peru. Seville: Bartolomé Perez, April, 1534.

The dramatic story of Pizarro's conquest of Peru is told here by one of his followers who returned to Spain shortly after the treacherous execution of Atahualpa, the last Inca ruler, whose meeting with the conquistadors is pictured on the title page. This is the second printed account of the conquest so far known, and the copy shown is one of only two recorded.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Gerardus Mercator.

Cordiform Map of the World, 1538.

Mercator's "Orbis imago" is probably the second map produced by the great cartographer and inventor of the famous Mercator projection. It is the earliest dated map to apply the name America to both continents. Only one other copy is known.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Nicolaus Copernicus.

De revolutionibus orbium coelestium. Norimbergae: Johannes Petreus, 1543.

Here, in the foundation book of modern astronomy, of which this copy is a first edition, the heliocentric theory of the universe was first given full expression and supported by mathematical calculations. Its publication led to the gradual abandonment of the geocentric theory which held that the earth was stationary and that the sun and stars revolved around it.

Rare Book Division

Juan de Zumárraga, Bishop of Mexico.

Doctrina breve. Mexico: En casa de Juan Cromberger, 1543.

In 1539, just one hundred years before the beginning of printing in this country, Juan Cromberger of Seville sent to Mexico his associate, Juan Pablos, to set up a printing press in that newly conquered country. Bishop Zumárraga's treatise on Catholic doctrine is the fourth recorded publication of this first printing press to be established in the New World. The copy shown is of the first issue, of which there are seven located copies.

Rare Book Division. Gift of Robert Lenox Kennedy

Roman Catholic Church. Liturgy and ritual.

Ordinarium sacri ordinis heremitarum sancti Augustini. Mexico: Juan Pablos, 1556.

The Ordinarium contains the portions of the Mass which do not change from day to day. This one, for Augustinian use, includes the first music printed in the New World. Only two other copies are recorded: one in the British Museum and the other in the William H. Scheide Collection, Princeton, New Jersey.

Rare Book Division

André Thevet.

Les singularitez de la France antarctique. Paris: Héritiers de Maurice de la Porte, 1557.

The first edition of this famous work on Brazil is a superlatively rare book, of which apparently only three other copies are recorded. It contains the first published account of the cigar and its use by the natives; it is also the second published work relating to Canada, and records Cartier's description of pipe-smoking among the Indians there.

Arents Tobacco Collection

John Foxe.

Actes and Monuments of these Latter and Perillous Dayes, Touching Matters of the Church. London: By J. Day, 1563.

This history of the Christian Church, popularly known as "Foxe's Book of Martyrs," was first written in Latin and published at Strasbourg. The first English edition, printed in 1563, was literally read to pieces, despite its length. Only two perfect copies, of which this is one, are supposed to exist.

Berg Collection

A Ryght Pithy, Pleasaunt and Merie Comedie: Intytuled Gammer Gurtons Nedle . . . Made by Mr. S. Mr. of Art. London: By T. Colwell, 1575.

Considered the first regular comedy in English dramatic literature, *Gammer Gurton's Needle* was published in 1575. Mr. S., Master of Arts, is now believed to have been William Stevenson of Christ's College, Cambridge. Only seven copies of this, the first, edition are now known.

Berg Collection

Baltazarini da Belgiojoso.

Balet comique de la Roynne. Paris: Le Roy, Ballard & Patisson, 1582.

This is the first ballet ever to be printed, and contains vocal music in score as well as dances. The ballet was presented at the wedding of the Duc de Joyeuse and Mlle. de Vaudemont in 1581. The copy on display was once the property of Ben Jonson.

Drexel Collection, Dance Collection

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.

Hymni totius anni. Venice: Angelo Gardano, 1589.

A remarkably fresh copy of the four voice parts of this work by Palestrina, containing forty-five hymns for the entire church year. It was apparently first published in Rome the same year, but as a large folio volume intended for choir use, rather than in part books, as shown here. These have survived in original condition.

Music Division

Anthony Chute.

Tabaco. London: Adam Islip, 1595.

Only one other copy is known of this first English work entirely on the subject of tobacco. For long no copy of this book was seen

by bibliographers, and many writers on the subject did not know of its existence.

Arents Tobacoo Collection

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha. Madrid: Por Juan de la Cuesta, 1605. →

Don Quixote may be read as a burlesque of the chivalric romances of the sixteenth century or as a satire on political and ecclesiastical abuses. It may also be read for pleasure, as one of the great narratives of fiction. This is a copy of the first edition.

Berg Collection

Samuel de Champlain.

Les voyages du sieur de Champlain. Paris: Jean Berjon, 1613.

The first edition of Champlain's account of his four voyages to America during the years from 1604 to 1613 is one of the great landmarks of Canadian history. It gives detailed information concerning Indian manners and customs, and includes among its illustrations a rare map showing Champlain's explorations southward along the coast of New Brunswick and New England. This is the first map to picture the coastline of New England with approximate accuracy. The Library's copy was formerly in the collection of Prince Eugene of Savoy.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Robert Hole.

Parthenia In-Violata, or Mayden-musicke for the Virginalls and Bass-viol. London: J. Pyper, 'ca. 1614.

A companion volume, *Parthenia*, which appeared in 1611, was the "first musicke that ever was printed for the virginalls." The title of the book listed here was a pun upon the Greek "Parthenos" (virgin) and "In-Violata" (set for the viol to accompany the virginal); both were popular instruments of the period. This is the only known copy of the work.

Drexel Collection, Music Division

James I, King of England.

The Workes. London: Robert Barker and John Bill, 1616.

The first folio edition of the works of tobacco's greatest enemy includes his famous "A Counterblaste to Tobacco." This copy was bound for his wife, Anne of Denmark, and has her arms and monogram on the sides. Books from her library are extremely rare.

Arents Tobacoo Collection



William Shakespeare.

Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies. London: By I. Iaggard, and E. Blount, 1623. →

The first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, known as the first folio, was brought together by two actors, John Heminge and Henry Condell. Both men were associates of Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre and were mentioned in his will. Though not of great rarity, the first folio is beyond doubt the best-known and most important work in English literature. And its fame happily illustrates Shakespeare's own lines:

"Not marble nor the gilded monuments
Of princes shall outlive this powerful
rhyme."

Rare Book Division. Bequest of Mary Stillman Harkness

Captain John Smith.

The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England and the Summer Isles. London: M. Sparkes, 1624.

King James I's copy, shown here, is of the first edition, first issue, with the 1624 date on the title page, the rare portrait of the Duchess of Richmond, to whom the book is dedicated, and the four maps in the earliest state known with this book.

Arents Tobacoo Collection

MR. WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARES

COMEDIES,
HISTORIES, &
TRAGEDIES.

Published according to the True Originall Copies.



LONDON

Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623.

Lope Felix de Vega Carpio.

El Brasil Restituido. Madrid, 1625.

De Vega is regarded as one of Spain's greatest poets and the founder of Spanish drama. He completed and signed this manuscript (possibly the only surviving original of one of his plays) just ten years before his death.

Manuscript Division

Bible. O.T. Psalms.

The Whole Booke of Davids Psalmes. London: Printed by T. C. for the Company of Stationers [sic] 1635.

Seventeenth-century embroidered bindings so remarkably well preserved as this one are great rarities. This example, done on satin, is worked with colored silks, gold and silver thread, sequins and seed pearls. The symbolical figure of Faith appears on the front cover and that of Hope on the back. The initials "S E" on the front cover are no doubt those of the original owner.

Spencer Collection

John Milton.

A Maske Presented at Ludlow Castle, 1634. London: For H. Robinson, 1637.

Milton undertook to write *Comus* at the invitation of the composer, Henry Lawes, who supplied the music. It was played before the Lord President of Wales. This first edition of the poet's first separate publication is probably the rarest of his works.

Berg Collection

Bible. O.T. Psalms.

The Whole Book of Psalmes Faithfully Translated into English Metre. Cambridge, Mass.: Imprinted by Stephen Daye, 1640.

The famous "Bay Psalm Book" was so called from the fact that these hopelessly unpoetical versions of the Psalms were the work of the chief divines of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, including such prominent figures as Richard Mather, Thomas Welde and John Eliot. It has the distinction of being the first book printed in what is now the United States. This is one of eleven known copies.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

Nicholas Comberford.

The South Part of Virginia, now the North Part of Carolina. 1657.

The very clear rendition of the area adjacent to Cape Hatteras is particularly significant

for the light it sheds on contemporaneous place names and for its pertinence to the use of "Carolina." The only other copy of this manuscript map is in the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England. Comberford, a London map-maker, placed his signature and the date 1657 at the left, just above the compass rose.

Manuscript Division

Bible. English. 1680.

The Holy Bible. Oxford: Printed at the Theater, 1680.

The splendid seventeenth-century binding displayed here was executed by Roger Bartlett of Oxford, one of the finest binders of the period. Bartlett had moved to Oxford from London after the Great Fire of 1666. Very few of his bindings were done in black leather. Moreover, this example is one of the largest and most elaborately tooled of any of those identified as his work.

Spencer Collection

New York City.

The Dongan Charter. April 27, 1686.

Governor Thomas Dongan signed and placed his seal on this charter which confirmed the rights and powers of the Corporation of the City to carry on the municipal government. This is the first of a succession of New York City charters upon which the government of our city is based. Owing to calendar changes in the middle of the eighteenth century, the date now corresponds to May 7th.

Owned by the Corporation of the City of New York, it has been deposited in the custody of The New York Public Library since 1899.

Manuscript Division

Joseph Penso.

Confusion de confusions. Amsterdam, 1688.

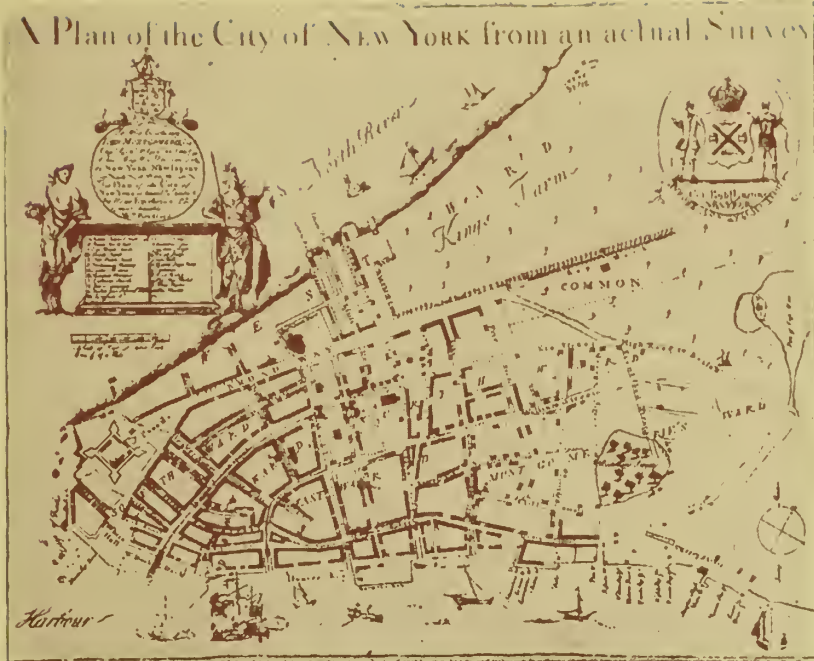
The operations of the Amsterdam Bourse are discussed in this amusingly titled book, written in the form of a dialogue. It is considered to be the earliest published work on stock-exchange practice. This is one of perhaps a half-dozen known copies.

Rare Book Division

New York Colony.

The Laws & Acts. New York: William Bradford, 1694.

Within a year after Bradford had established New York's first printing press, he issued the first compilation of the laws of the



colony. It is one of his most important early publications, and was probably completed in January, 1694, although sections of it had been printed in 1693. This is one of nine recorded copies.

Lenox Collection, Rare Book Division

The New-York Gazette. No. 48. Sept. 26 – Oct. 3, 1726. New York: William Bradford, 1726.

William Bradford issued the first number of New York's first newspaper on November 8, 1725, judging by the date of the earliest issue located. It was published for nineteen years, being discontinued in 1744, probably with the issue for November 19th. The issue shown has been chosen to represent the Library's important holdings of eighteenth-century American newspapers.

Rare Book Division. Gift of Alexander Maitland

The New-England Primer Enlarged. Boston: S. Kneeland & T. Green, 1727.

The "New England Primer," with its combination of rhymed alphabet, speller, moral lessons and catechism, is perhaps the most famous children's book ever published. It is known that there were printings of the Primer as early as the 1680s, but no copies have survived of any edition earlier than that of 1727, of which this is the only known copy.

Rare Book Division

James Lyne.

A Plan of the City of New York From an Actual Survey made by James Lyne. New York: William Bradford, 1731.

The "Bradford map," so called from the name of its publisher, is the first plan of New York to be printed here and one of the earliest examples of engraving on copper executed in New York. This copy is one of three known.

Rare Book Division

The Royal American Magazine, or Universal Repository of Instruction and Amusement. Boston: Joseph Greenleaf, 1774–1775.

The *Royal American Magazine* was an important step in the development of American publishing, since it is generally considered the ancestor of today's picture magazines. It was edited and printed by Isaiah Thomas and Joseph Greenleaf from 1774 to 1775, when it was discontinued. It contained serialized "true confession" stories, music, and even a "directory of love." During its short but exciting life, it ran twenty-two engravings by Paul Revere and Joseph Callender, the best talent available. (*See cover.*)

Spencer Collection

parent State, that the wishes for opportunity would be bestowed to them, if earning the sincerity of their professions by every testimony of devotion becoming the most dutiful subjects and the most affectionate colonists.

That your Majesty may enjoy a long & prosperous reign and that your descendants may govern your Dominions with honor to themselves and happiness to their subjects is our sincere and fervent prayer.

John Hancock

City of New Hampshire

John Langdon

New Jersey

Wm. Livingston

John De Hart

Massachusetts Bay

Thomas Cushing

Richd. Smith

Saml Adams

Pennsylvania

John Adams
Robt Treat Penn

Benjamin Franklin

West Island & Providence Plantations

Secy Hopkins

Geo. Ross

Saml Ward

James Wilson

Connecticut

Eliphalet Dyer

Edw. Biddle

Roger Sherman

New Castle, Kent & Delaware

John Deane

Carroll Rodney

New York

John Livingston

Tho. McKean

John Dunlap

Maryland

John Altop

Joat. Nighman

John Jay

Saml. Chase

John Lewis

Henry Kissel

Edw. Morris

Edw. A. Livingston Junr



The Olive Branch Petition. Manuscript, 1775.

This petition to George III of England was signed by the members of the Continental Congress on July 8, 1775. It was sent to the King in a final hope of heading off the American Revolution by having him direct his ministers to repeal the acts restricting colonial trade and to cease trying to collect taxes by force of arms.

It is called "The Olive Branch Petition" because of a letter written by John Adams at

the time this document was being drafted, saying that the general wish of the populace was "to keep open the door of reconciliation, to hold the sword in one hand and the olive branch in the other."

The petition was delivered by hand to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies late in August, 1775, and by September 1st, the colonists' agents were told there would be no royal answer to it. In the following July, the Declaration of Independence was issued.

Manuscript Division. Gift of Lucius Wilmerding

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with inherent & unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed: that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles & organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes, and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer under an oppressive government, than they are willing to abolish the form they are accustomed to. but when a long train of abuses & usurpations, begun at a distant & quieted period, & pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce us under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government, & to provide new guards for their future security such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, & such is now the necessity which constrains them to expunge their former systems of government. the history of the present king of Great Britain, is a history of unremitting injuries & usurpations, among which appears no solitary fact to contradict the uniform course of the rest; but all have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unshaken by falsehood. He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome & necessary for the public good. he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained, & when so suspended, he has neglected utterly to attend to them. he has refused to pass other laws for the accomodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them & formidable to tyrants only.

Declaration of Independence. Philadelphia, July, 1776.

This manuscript, in the handwriting of Thomas Jefferson, is one of the five drafts or fair copies he made of the Declaration of In-

dependence. Dr. Thomas A. Emmet gathered into a volume on the inception of the Declaration, in which this manuscript is bound, at least one letter or signature by each man who signed that historic document.

Manuscript Division

Declaration of Independence. New York: John Holt [1776]

This is the first New York printing of the Declaration of Independence, ordered by the State Convention meeting at White Plains, July 9, 1776. The only other known copy of this broadside is in the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Museum, San Marino, California. A copy once owned by the New York State Library was destroyed in the disastrous fire at the State Capitol in 1911.

Rare Book Division

Constitution of the United States of America. Bill of Rights. September 25, 1789.

Attested copies of the twelve Articles of amendment to the Constitution as proposed by the Congress were sent out by that body, probably one to each state. Except for the first two Articles, they were ratified by the required number of states by December 15, 1791, and thus became the first ten amendments. They have since been known as "The Bill of Rights."

Manuscript Division

Kitagawa Utamaro.

O-Ume. Color woodcut. Japan, ca. 1794.

From the series *Jitsu Kurabe Iro no Minakami*. This title as it is written reads simply "An Array of Passionate Lovers," but the characters can be pronounced in a more poetic way, giving them the somewhat deeper meaning "The Fountains of Love, a Contest (or Comparison) of Faithfulness." In each sheet of the series are two famous lovers.

Here the girl, O-Ume, in red and pink, sits with bowed head; the man beside her, Kumenosuke, is robed in black and grey. The impression and condition are very fine and in composition and massing of color the print is a masterpiece.

Ledoux Collection, Prints Division

George Washington.

Farewell Address. Philadelphia, 1796.

This manuscript, entirely in the handwriting of President Washington, is the final version which he delivered in person to the Philadelphia printer, David Claypoole. It was published September 19, 1796, in *Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser*. The Library published the history of the Farewell Address, with facsimiles and transliterations, in 1935.

Manuscript Division

Charles Lamb.

A Farewell to Tobacco. Autograph manuscript, ca. 1805.

Lamb's "Farewell to Tobacco" is the most famous smoking poem, by one of the most-beloved literary smokers. Lamb, of course, never gave up tobacco. He is reported to have said that he wished to draw his last breath through a pipe and exhale it in a pun. We can agree with Hazlitt that these lines in tribute to the "friendliest of plants" have rarely been surpassed in quaint wit.

Arents Tobacco Collection

Francis Scott Key.

The Star Spangled Banner. Baltimore, 1814.

Shortly after the British bombardment of Fort McHenry at Baltimore in September, 1814, this first sheet-music edition of our national anthem was published. The words were set to an old English tune entitled "To Anacreon in Heaven."

Music Division

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Edgar Allan Poe.

The Murders in the Rue Morgue, and The Man that Was Used Up. Philadelphia: W. H. Graham, 1843. (The Prose Romances of Edgar A. Poe. Uniform Serial Edition. No. 1)

In 1843, when his fortunes were at a low ebb, Poe attempted to win a popular success by the publication of his stories in a cheap series. Number 1 — and apparently the only number — of "The Prose Romances" is the first edition of one of his greatest thrillers, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, which had previously appeared in magazine form. But even at 12½ cents a copy, the venture was a failure. Only ten of the pamphlets have survived, and possibly no other is in such pristine condition.

Berg Collection

Charles Dickens.

A Christmas Carol. London: Bradbury and Evans, 1849.

Between 1858 and 1868 Dickens went on four prolonged tours, including a visit to the United States, on which he gave public readings from his stories. This copy of *A Christmas Carol*, one of his most popular readings, he prepared for use by inlaying the leaves, writing directions and transition passages in the margins, and marking omissions in the text.

Berg Collection

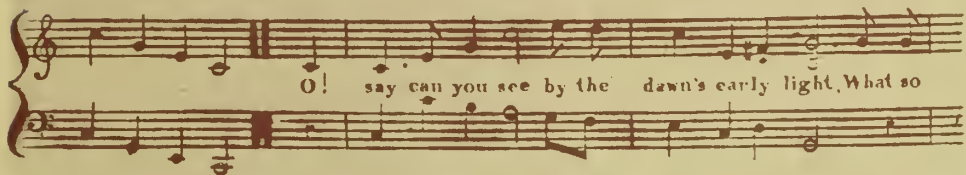
THE
STAR SPANGLED BANNER

A PATRIOTIC SONG.

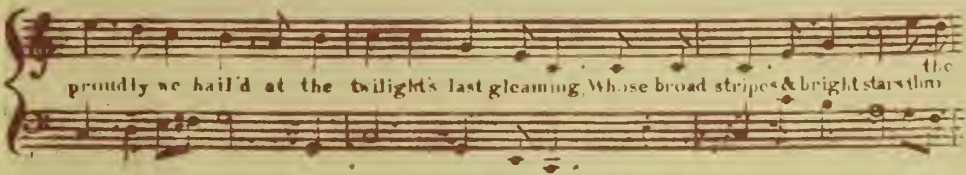
Baltimore. Printed and Sold at CARRS Music Store 36 Baltimore Street.

Air, Anacreon in Heaven.

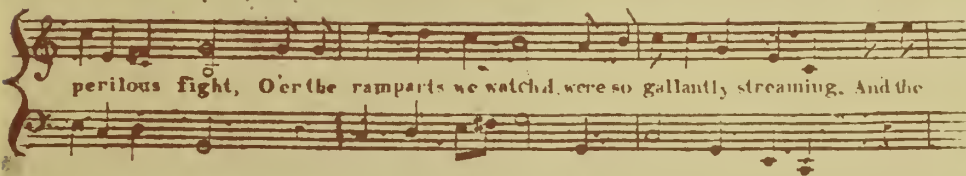
Con Spirito



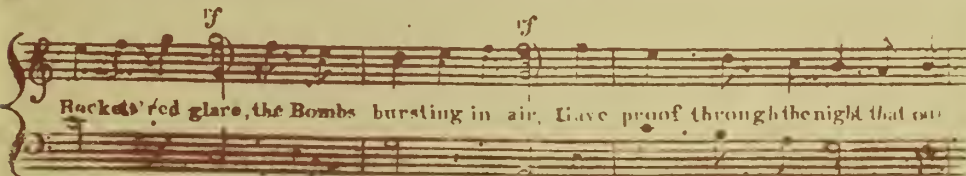
O! say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so



proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes & bright stars thro' the



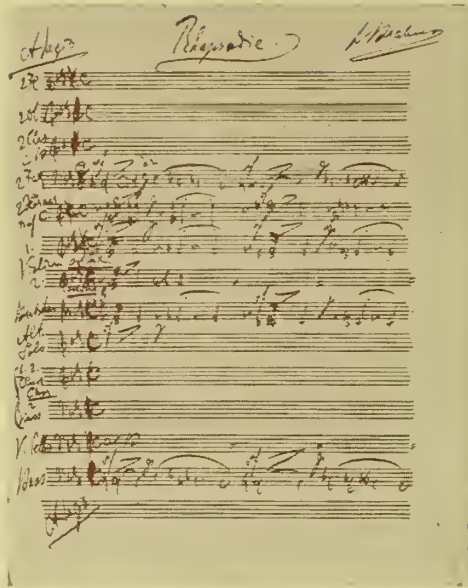
perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming. And the



Rockets' red glare, the Bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our

(T.C.S.B.)

(Adapt'd & Arr'd by T.C.)



Johannes Brahms. ↑
 Rhapsody for Contralto, Male
 Chorus and Orchestra. Opus 53.
 Manuscript on paper, 1869.

One of Brahms' most famous compositions for voice is the "Alto Rhapsody," shown here in an autograph manuscript by the composer. The text is taken from Goethe's *Harzreise im Winter*. Brahms completed the composition in the autumn of 1869.

Paul Wittgenstein Collection, Music Division

Walt Whitman.
 Leaves of Grass. Brooklyn, N. Y.,
 1855.

Probably the most important copy of *Leaves of Grass* is the one shown here — Whitman's own copy of the second issue of the first edition in its original paper covers, one of only three such copies known to have survived. Pasted or pinned to the blank fly-leaves are the original manuscripts of seven variant Introductions intended for later editions of the work. These were written and worked over at various times between 1855 and May 31, 1870, the date of Whitman's fifty-first birth-

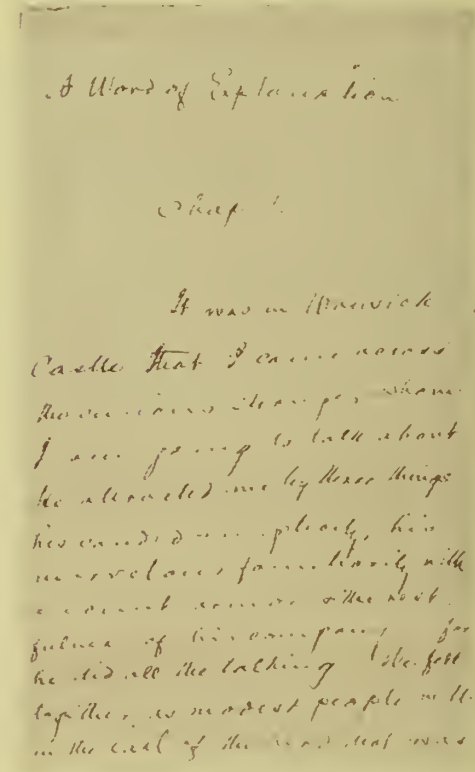
day. The texts never appeared during Whitman's lifetime, as the book was packed away and lost sight of for over twenty years, coming to light, as Horace Traubel has recorded on the front cover, after Whitman's death.

Oscar Lion Collection, Rare Book Division

Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
 The Manuscript of *A Connecticut
 Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

While reading Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, Clemens was inspired to mix medieval romance and nineteenth-century knowledge and ideas — an inspiration which produced the humor of *A Connecticut Yankee*. Because of the way it both burlesques and attacks social abuses, the novel has been compared to *Don Quixote*.

Berg Collection ↓



A Word of Explanation

Chapter 1

It was in Warwick

Castle that I conceived
 the idea of this strange volume.
 I am going to talk about
 he attracted me by these things
 his conduct was peculiar, his
 manner was familiarly with
 a certain amount of the best
 fulness of his own party for
 he did all the talking. I felt
 together, as modest people will
 in the end of the road, that was

A VIEW OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON WITH SEVERAL SHIPS

